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Executive Director
Sandra Fitzpatrick

MINUTES OF GENERAL MEETING

January 5-6, 2005

Student Union

Cal State University, Chico

A3AA (530) 898-5923

Pending Approval

Chair: Nancy Dolton

Wednesday, January 5, 2005

I. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Commission chair Nancy Dolton called the meeting to order at 9:30am. Dolton led the Commission in the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. Roll Call

Present: Commissioners Dolton, Acosta, Ayala, Esquivel, Goode, King, Lambrinos, Latimer, Lundeen, Schachter, Scharlach, and Yee. Excused were Commissioners Chen, Chung, Dennison, Karr, Kim-Selby, Lacayo, Pynoos, Ross, Wong and Wyman. Absent was Commissioner Western. A quorum was established.

Staff: Sandi Fitzpatrick, and Carla Hett Smith.

III. Introductions

Members of the Area 3 Agency on Aging attending included Vicki Paxton, 2nd person, and 3rd person.

IV. Approve Agenda

Agenda was approved by consent.

V. Approve Minutes of June 2-3, 2004 and September 14-15, 2004 Commission Meetings

Minutes were not approved, as they were not available.

VI. Public Comment

There was no public present.

VII. Chair/Executive Director Reports

Chair, Nancy Dolton, reported on the transition of CSL. They are interested in space in the Legislative Office Building of the Capitol. Staff and CSL members have met to negotiate a lease and discuss details of a move. Nancy Dolton and Brenda Ross will represent the Commission on a transition committee. California Performance Review activities/response are on hold until further information is available.

Sandi Fitzpatrick submitted her executive director's report. Commissioner Hank Lacayo made a motion that was seconded by Barbara Lundeen that the Commission retain its co-location relationship with the California Department of Aging. The motion carried with Commissioner Chuck Ayala abstaining.

Carla Hett Smith presented the latest news on the California Performance Review and a possible Governor's Reorganization Proposal. Staff is working on a paper describing statutory roles for the Commission (current and past) which should help CCoA strengthen its advocacy role into the future. This will be the starting place for recommendations to the Governor and legislature on further defining/strengthening the Commission.

The Commission will approve its final 04-05 and the first 05-06 budget in its January meeting.

Commissioner Brenda Ross motioned and Commissioner Hank Lacayo seconded that the Commission write a letter to the Assembly Speaker and the Senate President Pro-Tem asking for a joint committee of the two houses on Olmstead Implementation. The Commission feels strongly that legislative commitment to implementing Olmstead be retained.

VIII. Nominating Committee

Commissioner Brenda Ross presented the Nominating Committee report. Due to the turnover in staff and the present CPR proposal to eliminate the Commission, Ross recommended leaving the executive committee and officers as they are currently. Because of a vacancy on the executive committee due to former Commissioner Polston's replacement, the committee recommended Commissioner Joanna Selby be added to fill the committee. Commissioner Latimer moved and Commissioner Wyman seconded the motion to accept the report of the nominating committee. The Commission does not have a meeting scheduled for December; however, the Commission bylaws require election of officers in December. Executive Director Fitzpatrick suggested that by November 10th, staff will present by e-mail the slate of officers for the Commission and ask for any other nominations from the Commission. Secondly, by November 20th, all nominations will be received and added to a paper ballot. The paper ballot will be mailed to Commissioners on November 22nd, with a December 10th deadline for return (either by fax or mail with signature.)

IX. Preview: Thursday's Presentation

Commissioner Dolton and Director Sandi Fitzpatrick provided an overview of the discussion of tomorrow's presentation. The group discussed questions to ask Mel Woods on the White House

Conference on Aging, but agreed to let the WHCoA committee take the lead on this based on their deliberations in their committee meeting.

X. Commission Advocacy

A Commission discussion on advocacy related to restructuring was deferred.

The commission standing committees, Older Californian's Act, Long Range Strategic Plan on Aging, and White House Conference on Aging met from 3pm to 4:30pm.

Thursday, November 4

XII. Planning for the White House Conference on Aging (agenda taken out of order)

Commissioner Nancy Dolton introduced White House Conference on Aging policy committee member Mel Woods to extend an award to former Commission executive director Ray Mastalish. He then discussed the mandate of the 2005 WHCoA – to address both the needs and contributions of the current aging population and the upcoming baby boomers. The policy committee has set issues that they will be focusing on at the WHCoA. The AoA will be producing 4-5 page issue papers on a number of issues including:

- Planning along the lifetime
- Employment
- Community environment
- Health and long term living
- Social engagement
- Marketplace

The WHCoA has already begun listening sessions across the country. The 3rd meeting of his policy committee will take place on December 1st. Delegate selection criteria will be decided at that meeting. The policy committee has heard from a number of experts including Harvard academics, representation from the National Governor's Association, and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. The WHCoA will shift focus in the spring from 'listening sessions' to 'solution sessions'. In order to hold a 'solution session', the Commission needs to send a letter of request to Dorcas Hardy.

Questions to Mel included:

1. Will senior issues discussed in WHCoA include Veteran's issues? Yes, policy committee has heard from the Veterans Department.
2. Has the WHCoA considered NORC's (naturally occurring retirement communities) as a possible best practice? Pilot exists in LA. WHCoA is open to all best practices.
3. Is the date for the WHCoA going to change in light of the election? No, the date of October 23-26th is set in stone. The hotel is the Capitol Hill Hyatt Regency, and the hotel has convinced the policy committee that there will be adequate capacity for 1100-1300 delegates.

Commissioner Comment: The policy committee is applauded for addressing the issue of elder abuse.

4. Will the issues of the baby boomers overshadow the needs of seniors today? Policy committee is clear on their mandate to address both current needs/contributions of seniors, and the needs of the upcoming baby boomers.

5. Has the policy considered Universal Health Care (an outcome of almost every WHCoA since its inception)? No, that is not on the agenda of the policy committee, though the agenda does focus significantly on health care.

Commissioner Comment: there should be a shift from health care that just pays bills to health care that takes an active role in prevention, and stressing personal responsibility for health.

6. Can the Commission write an issue paper on the shift from sickness care to health care? The policy committee will be writing 4-5 page issue papers which they will post on their website on each issue.
7. How can we get seniors' participation in listening sessions if there are no federal dollars to help us do this? There is a recent hire at the AoA to do Community Outreach, she is ensuring that there is broader involvement from the whole community.

Public Comment: Orange County advisory council member commented on the issue of transportation and exercise. Non-medical transportation needs to be covered in order for seniors to exercise and keep active (for example, woman with rheumatoid arthritis could not get transportation to the health club, but she could get it for dr's visits).

Public Comment: Because of the demographic shift, and a skewing of the population, there are not enough people to provide the support to seniors. More and more help is being provided by families. These families require training, support groups, etc. Policy must be creative to serve this population. Response – Gayle Hunt of the National Caregiver's Association has advised the policy committee.

Mel welcomed a work session with the Commission on Aging after December 1st when the delegate selection process has been determined. The policy committee is compelled to accomplish something with this WHCoA – they are very cognizant of the fact that very little was accomplished of the outcomes of the 1995 WHCoA.

XI. Master Plan on Aging

As Assembly Member Patty Berg was called back to Sacramento for a Democratic Caucus, representing her on her 'Master Plan for Aging' were Ray Mastalish, Allison Ruff, and Dixon Arnett.

Ray Mastalish provided a background for Patty Berg's Master Plan for Aging. She wishes her master plan to eliminate the piecemeal policy making approach of the legislature, to instill continuity into the process which currently aids further fragmentation of aging programs and services. The first committee of Patty's looked at following up on SB 910 (Vasconcellos' plan). They looked at the key issues in the plan and refined key principles and questions for implementation of the plan. The second group looked at the administrative structure at the state level for aging services. They were to focus on the aging leadership structure, looking to other states for models and advice. The third group looked at a framework for senior legislative issues and was comprised of experts within California.

Ray then reported on the first group. Many plans for aging (or that have impact on aging population) exist in the state: State Plan on Aging, SB 910 strategic plan on aging, Olmstead Plan, State Independent Living Council plan, Mental Health master plan, California State Council

on Developmental Disabilities plan, etc. The group came up with 6 guiding principles and 17 questions.

Dixon Arnett reported on the second groups' findings. California is one of only two states in the nation actually planning for the baby boomers. What kind of bureaucracy can best handle the challenges ahead? This group challenges the Commission to be bold and choose an option of a quasi-governmental structure such as the one in the 2nd report. A good idea is always controversial, but the organization must be somewhat independent of the political process to fulfill its advocacy role, as the structure offered by the 2nd committee proposes.

Allison Ruff provided discussion of the strategic approach to legislative and policy changes outlined in the 3rd report. We don't have the resources to be piecemeal. The 3rd report includes both short and long term policy changes. In acting on her Master Plan, Patty Berg plans to begin with the restructuring issue by holding hearings in the Spring, 2005. The role of the Commission on the legislative priorities may be participation in informational hearings, coalition building, and advocacy training. There is an advocacy boot camp in Oklahoma that is a resource. If the Commission were to take on this role, they could recruit more advocates to further advance the aging agenda. Patty Berg plans to focus this legislative session on Universal Health Care, End of Life Care – Death with Dignity, and Mental Health Advanced Directives.

Commissioner Questions:

1. The spirit of the California Performance Review is to consolidate control with the Governor's office. In light of this, is the quasi-governmental structure realistic for CA at this time? Yes, for compelling financial and political reasons, a drastic change is needed. The Commission needs to get to Maria to talk about aging politics. The last thing CA needs to be doing structurally at this point is 'blowing up boxes' and subsuming aging under more levels of bureaucracy. There is never a perfect time for new ideas, but we must seize new opportunities of the CPR. CCoA needs to carry the mission, build senior coalitions, and practice advocacy, advocacy, advocacy. In Oregon, we hear from their leadership the same kinds of oppositions to their new structure, however, due to overwhelming support of seniors and disabled persons, the new structure was born.

Comment: The Master Plan on Aging should not just focus on the future and the baby boomers. There are needy seniors now that should not be forgotten.

2. What about the idea of a senior bond act to fund many of the proposals in the Master Plan on Aging? This has had two attempts in the past, failed because it is not considered an important enough issue. Latest attempt was through Parks and Recreation who didn't want their bond measure 'diluted' with senior issues.

Public Comment:

Wendy Chan: There are many legislative priorities that can be accomplished with no funding, for instance certain timeframes around hospice care, and framing of language. We need to shift the focus of Medicare from treating chronic, short-term illness to preventive care.

Stuart Bovine (head of a for-profit caregiving company): His small business provides jobs to many seniors from 50-75 years of age that want to reenter the workforce. Private pay services from his agency includes transportation services. In the long term in his industry some meaningful policy changes would include labor law changes – ie. person with Alzheimer's dementia who requires around the clock care must pay overtime charges, or experience turn over in staff that is disruptive to the person receiving care. Mandatory

health insurance proposed on the ballot in this election would have been disastrous for a business like his. He is not opposed to providing health care to his workers, however, 80% of the cost was too much, 50%/50% would have been more reasonable. Workers compensation rates are 3 to 10 times higher in California than in other states. We must learn from the private sector and draw on its best practices.

XIII. WHCoA Listening Session:

The Commission discussed timeline of activities for the next six months:

December: LRSPA Committee meeting, reports of task teams, Executive Committee

January: Full Commission meeting in Chico

February: Mobility Summit and Statewide Forum

March: Solution Session for WHCoA?? Location to be determined.

April: Integrated Advocacy Conference, State Plan on Aging public hearing

June: Full Commission meeting in Santa Barbara

Commissioner Helen Karr made a motion, seconded by Commissioner Wyman that the Commission host a WHCoA Solution Session in February or March. After discussion of which date would be preferable, the motion passed.

XIV. Committee Reports:

Leah Wyman presented the report of the LRSPA committee. The committee supported the possibility of supplementing the forum with additional activities that would provide more substance and partner with the current administration Standing Committee Reports. Wyman moved and Ross seconded acceptance of this report. The motion carried.

Brenda Ross reported on the meeting of the Older CA Act Committee. The committee is in favor of changing statutory language of the role of the Commission on the State Plan on Aging to make it less ambiguous and clearer. This statutory change would only be proposed if there is legislation this year that opens up the Older Californian's Act for restructuring purposes. Ross moved and Karr seconded acceptance of this report. The motion carried.

Sandi Fitzpatrick reported on the WHCoA committee actions. The committee agreed that the Commission should host a solution session for the WHCoA. They accepted the roles/responsibilities chart of CCoA/CDA re. the WHCoA. The committee supported forming an advisory committee, and added a number of other sectors to be considered for participating on this committee to include more academia, business community, the Office of Statewide Health Planning, the religious community, etc. Commissioner Ayala moved acceptance and Commissioner Karr seconded. The motion carried.

Nancy Dolton adjourned the meeting at 2pm.